Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/1994/L.72
1 March 1994

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 11

FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Argentina*, Austria, Costa Rica, Czech Republic*, Denmark*, Finland, Greece*, Hungary, Italy, Lesotho*, Norway*, Peru, Russian Federation, Sweden*, Switzerland*, Uruguay:

draft resolution

Internally displaced persons

The Commission on Human Rights,

Mindful of its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the relevant norms of international human rights instruments, as well as of international humanitarian law and international refugee law,

Deeply disturbed by the large and growing number of internally displaced persons throughout the world and conscious of the serious problem this is creating for the international community,

Recognizing that internally displaced persons are in need of relief assistance and of protection,

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* In accordance with rule 69, para. 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Conscious of the human rights as well as the humanitarian dimensions of the problem of internally displaced persons and the responsibilities this poses for the international community,

Recalling its resolution 1993/95 of 11 March 1993, in which it requested the representative of the Secretary-General to continue his work aimed at better understanding of the general problems faced by internally displaced persons and their possible long-term solutions,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, in which the World Conference on Human Rights called for a comprehensive approach by the international community with regard to refugees and displaced persons,

Bearing in mind that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/135, welcoming the decision by the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to extend, on a case-by-case basis and under specific circumstances, protection and assistance to the internally displaced, encouraged the representative, through dialogue with Governments, to continue his review of the needs for international protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including his compilation and analysis of existing rules and norms,

Bearing in mind also that in the same resolution the Assembly invited the representative to present suggestions and recommendations with regard to ways and means, including the institutional aspects, of providing effective protection and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Conscious of the need for the United Nations system to gather comprehensive information on the issue of the protection of the human rights of and assistance to internally displaced persons, as well as to coordinate effectively its activities in this regard,

Welcoming the cooperation already established between the representative of the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Aware of the need to address the root causes of internal displacement, particularly as regards the identification of preventive measures, long-term solutions and opportunities for the peaceful resolution of conflicts,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons and on his visit to Sri Lanka (E/CN.4/1994/44 and Add.1);

2. Commends the representative of the Secretary-General for the activities so far undertaken despite the limited resources available to him, and endorses his proposed programme of activities;

3. Welcomes the efforts of the representative to continue raising the level of consciousness about the plight of the internally displaced;

4. Encourages the representative, through dialogue with Governments and all concerned, to continue his review of the needs for international protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including his compilation and analysis of existing rules and norms;

5. Also encourages the representative to include in his review the needs for international protection and assistance of this vulnerable group in specific situations;

6. Further encourages the representative to continue to pay specific attention in his review to the protection and assistance needs of women and children;

7. Invites the representative to make suggestions and recommendations with regard to ways and means, including the institutional aspects, of providing adequate and effective protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons;

8. Calls upon all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the representative, encourages them to give serious consideration to inviting him to visit their countries, so as to enable him to study and analyse more fully the issues involved, and thanks those Governments which have already done so;

9. Also calls upon Governments to give due consideration to the recommendations and suggestions made to them by the representative for improving protection and assistance to internally displaced persons, and endorses the recommendation of the representative regarding the need for follow-up;

10. Calls upon its other mechanisms to seek information on situations which could lead to internal displacement and to include relevant information and recommendations on prevention and solutions in their reports to the Commission;

11. Calls upon the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all regional intergovernmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration and non-governmental organizations to continue to cooperate with the representative and assist him in his tasks and activities;

12. Urges concerned United Nations agencies to provide to the representative all possible assistance and support in the implementation of his programme of activities, including all necessary information, and calls upon the representative to propose ways and means of setting up a more coherent system of data collection on issues related to the situation and protection of internally displaced persons;

13. Encourages the representative in this respect to enlist the contribution of local, national and regional capacities including academic and research institutions;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to his representative to carry out his mandate effectively, in particular with regard to the study and analysis of the legal framework and the development of a comprehensive strategy;

15. Requests the representative of the Secretary-General to continue to submit annual reports on his activities to the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly;

16. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-first session.